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 ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	AID-00	ARA-01	A-00	CA-02
	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01	FAAE-00
	FBIE-00	UTED-00	FBO-01	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	INSE-00	JUSE-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	MMP-00	M-00
	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIS-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	OPR-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	CIO-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00
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R 251809Z SEP 97
 FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7999
 INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 004895

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: PTER, PGOV, AR
 SUBJECT: GOA SLAMMED ON BOMBING INVESTIGATIONS

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
 DATE/CASE ID: 26 NOV 2008 200705645

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1. (SBU) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARGENTINE JEWISH COMMUNITY PROVIDED US WITH A COPY OF A 100-PAGE REPORT PREPARED BY A GROUP OF LAWYERS EXAMINING THE ROLE OF BOTH THE NATIONAL AND BUENOS AIRES PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE INVESTIGATIONS OF THE 1992 TERRORIST BOMBING OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES AND THE 1994 BOMBING OF THE ARGENTINE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (AMIA). THE REPORT LAMBASTS BOTH GOVERNMENTS FOR NEGLIGENCE IN THEIR INEPT INVESTIGATIONS AND A GENERAL LACK OF COOPERATION. THE AUTHORS LAY MUCH OF THE BLAME FOR THE AMIA BOMBING ON THE POOR HANDLING OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE ISRAELI EMBASSY BOMBING. THEY SAID THAT "AFTER 28 MONTHS WITHOUT ACTION (FOLLOWING THE FIRST BOMBING), WE CANNOT BUT WONDER IF THIS IS ONE OF THE POSSIBLE REASONS BEHIND THE SECONDATTACK... SADLY WE MUST CONCLUDE THAT TH FAILURE OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE ATTACK AGAINST THEISRAELI EMBASSY WEAKENED AND HINDERED THE INVESTIGATION NTO THE AMIA ATTACK." THE GROUP CLAIMS THAT THE GOVERNMENT FAILED IN ITS DUTY TO ADMINISTER JUSTICE IN THE FIRST CASE AND THEY ASKED SPECIAL PROSECUTOR GALEANO TO CONSIDER THIS ANOTHER AVENUE OF INVESTIGATION.

2. (SBU) THE REPORT ALLEGED SEVERAL INSTANCES IN WHICH THE POLICE (AND BY IMPLICATION THE GOVERNMENT) HAD NOT ACTED ACCORDING TO ARGENTINE LAW BY NOT FOLLOWING UP ON LEADS DEVELOPED DURING THE COURSE OF THE INVESTIGATIONS. THE GROUP CALLS UPON THE GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE INFORMATION IT WAS PURPORTEDLY HIDING, SUCH AS A LIST FROM THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT OF ALL THOSE

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PEOPLE WHO ENTERED AND DEPARTED ARGENTINA AROUND THE TIME OF THE TWO EVENTS, AND THE RECORD OF AN EARLY JULY 1994 CONVERSATION BETWEEN ARGENTINE DIPLOMATS IN MILAN, ITALY, AND BRAZILIAN CITIZEN WILSON DOS SANTOS DURING WHICH DOS SANTOS REPORTEDLY PREDICTED A POSSIBLE TERRORIST ATTACK IN ARGENTINA.

3. (SBU) THE REPORT ALSO CITES THE INVOLVEMENT OF PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES POLICE IN THE SALE OF THE STOLEN VEHICLE USED IN THE AMIA ATTACK AND ATTEMPTS BY

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OTHER PROVINCIAL POLICE OFFICIALS TO COVER-UP THIS FACT AND HIDE EVIDENCE. IT SLAMS THE GOVERNMENT FOR NOT HAVING LEARNED FROM THE FIRST BOMBING HOW TO RESPOND TO ANOTHER SUCH ATTACK, THUS RESULTING IN MORE DEATHS AND INJURIES DURING THE AMIA BOMBING AND A SIMILARLY POORLY RUN INVESTIGATION.

4. (SBU) THE REPORT MENTIONS THAT THEN-SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER STATED PUBLICLY THAT THERE WAS "FIRM PROOF" REGARDING THE PARTICIPATION OF IRAN IN THE TWO ATTACKS. THE REPORT SAYS IT HAD BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN THIS EVIDENCE AND ADDED THAT ARGENTINE PRESIDENT MENEM DENIED IN AUGUST 1994 THAT THERE EXISTED ANY PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE LINKING THE IRANIANS TO THE ATTACKS. IT LISTS SEVERAL SUPPOSED IRANIANS WHO COULD HAVE BEEN LINKED TO THE ATTACKS. THE GROUP ASKED THAT THE RESULT OF ANY INVESTIGATION INTO THEIR POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT BE MADE PUBLIC.

5. (SBU) THE REPORT MENTIONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE POOR USE OF ITS OFFER OF A USD 3 MILLION REWARD

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FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOMBINGS. (FYI: THE DAY THE LOCAL MEDIA PICKED UP ON THIS REPORT, THE GOVERNMENT RAN A QUARTER-PAGE ADVERTISEMENT OF THE REWARD IN THE NEWSPAPER "CLARIN.")

6. (SBU) THE REPORT CONCLUDES THAT ALL THESE FACTS SHOW THE HIGH VULNERABILITY OF ARGENTINA TO SIMILAR ATTACKS; THE COUNTRY SEEMINGLY IS PREDISPOSED TO HOST PEOPLE READY TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH CRIMES, AND THE POORLY RUN INVESTIGATIONS HAD SHOWN THE EASE WITH WHICH ANY SORT OF OBSTACLE OR FAILURE COULD BE USED TO SLOW THE COURSE OF JUSTICE. THE AUTHORS ASK JUDGE GALEANO TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAD BEEN CRIMINALLY NEGIGENT IN THEIR ACTIONS.

7. (U) WHILE THE REPORT DID NOT MENTION THE NAMES OF OFFICIALS THE GROUP BELIEVES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NEGIGENT ACTIONS, THE MEDIA DID NOT FEEL THE SAME

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CONSTRAINTS. IT LISTED THE FOLLOWING: HEAD OF IMMIGRATION HUGO FRANCO, RESPONSIBLE FOR NOT RESPONDING TO GALEANO'S REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION; FORMER CHIEF OF THE FEDERAL POLICE JORGE PASERO, FOR PROCEDURAL ERRORS IN ALLOWING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF KEY EVIDENCE; PROVINCIAL HEAD OF SECURITY BRIG. ANDRES ANTONIETTI, FOR NOT HANDLING THE REWARD PROGRAM CORRECTLY; FORMER CHIEF OF THE BUENOS AIRES PROVINCIAL POLICE PEDRO

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	DSCC-00	DRL-04	G-00	/029W			

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R 251809Z SEP 97
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8000
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 004895

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PTER, PGOV, AR

SUBJECT: GOA SLAMMED ON BOMBING INVESTIGATIONS

KLODCZYK, FOR NOT PURSUING THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE
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SUPPLY BY SOME OF HIS POLICE OFFICERS OF THE STOLEN
VEHICLE USED IN THE AMIA BOMBING; AND FORMER SECRETARY
OF SECURITY FOR THE PROVINCE ALBERTO PIOTTI, FOR NOT
TESTIFYING AFTER BEING MENTIONED BY SEVERAL POLICE
IMPLICATED IN THE CASE. PIOTTI RESIGNED HIS POSITION
JUST DAYS PRIOR TO THE RELEASE OF THIS REPORT. MANY
SPECULATED THE RESIGNATION WAS DUE TO THE REPORT,
ALTHOUGH THIS WAS DENIED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

8. (U) AS EXPECTED, BOTH THE NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENTS IMMEDIATELY REJECTED THE CHARGES OF
NEGLIGENCE. INTERIOR MINISTER CORACH SAID THE
GOVERNMENT WOULD RESPOND OFFICIALLY TO THE CHARGES. HE
CLAIMED THAT THE AUTHORS OF THE REPORT WERE ALL MEMBERS
OF "OPPOSITION PARTIES," IMPLYING THE REPORT WAS
POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. WHILE MOST OF THE LAWYERS ARE
MEMBERS OF OPPOSITION PARTIES, ONE, LEON CARLOS
ARSLANIAN, IS A LIFE-LONG PERONIST WHO ONCE SERVED AS
MINISTER OF JUSTICE UNDER MENEM. CORACH LATER BACK-
TRACKED A BIT STATING THAT ONE "SHOULD NOT SPECULATE OR
MAKE POLITICS" OF THE SITUATION.

9. (U) AS AN ADDENDUM, IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN THE
SEPTEMBER 24 EDITION OF "LA NACION," HUGO ANZORREGUY,
HEAD OF THE ARGENTINE SECRETARIAT OF STATE INTELLIGENCE
(SIDE), PROMISED THAT THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE AMIA
BOMBING WOULD SHOW "IMPORTANT ADVANCES" BEFORE OCTOBER
8. HE BASED HIS PREDICTION ON THE SEEMINGLY OBSCURE
CONNECTION BETWEEN AN INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED IN THE AMIA
INVESTIGATION ALSO SUPPOSEDLY BEING LINKED WITH THE

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FLIGHT TO AVOID JUSTICE OF THE FORMER HEAD OF THE
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BUENOS AIRES PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, JOSE PICO. ANZORREGUY
OFFERED NO FURTHER EXPLANATION. GODARD

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